

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07976 310928Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DLOS-09 FEA-01 ACDA-07
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /134 W
-----310933Z 002164 /15

P R 310908Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8207

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7976

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: DIET EXTENSION CLEARS JAPAN-ROK SHELF AGREEMENT

REF: TOKYO 7896

SUMMARY. CURRENT DIET SESSION WAS EXTENDED FOR TWELVE DAYS MAY 28
ASSURING AUTOMATIC UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE (RATIFICATION) OF LONG-
PENDING JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT JUNE 8. EXTENSION
ALSO MAKES IT CERTAIN THAT UPPER HOUSE ELECTION WILL BE MOVED TO
JULY 10. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER FULL DAY OF WRANGLING MAY 28, TWELVE-DAY EXTENSION OF
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CURRENT DIET SESSION WAS VOTED THAT NIGHT WITH SUPPORT OF RULING
CONSERVATIVE LDP AND DSP. OPPOSED WERE JSP (WHICH BOYCOTTED VOTE),
CGP, NLC AND JCP (WHICH PARTICIPATED, VOTING AGAINST). EFFECT OF
DECISION WAS TO EXTEND SESSION THROUGH JUNE 9, ASSURING AUTOMATIC
UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE OF JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT JUNE
8, THIRTY DAYS AFTER ITS UPPER HOUSE INTRODUCTION. SECONDARY
EFFECT OF EXTENSION WAS TO MAKE IT ALMOST CERTAIN THAT UPPER

HOUSE ELECTION WILL BE MOVED BACK TO JULY 10.

2. COMMENT. OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR DIET EXTENSION WAS NECESSITY TO DEAL WITH RECENTLY CONCLUDED JAPAN-SOVIET FISHERIES AGREEMENTS, BUT DECISION TURNED FROM OUTSET ON WHETHER EXTENSION WOULD BE ELEVEN DAYS OR MORE REQUIRED FOR AUTOMATIC UPPER HOUSE PASSAGE OF SHELF AGREEMENT. (SOVIET AGREEMENTS COULD HAVE BEEN MANAGED AT A BRIEF SPECIAL SESSION, BUT THEN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABORTED.) OPPOSITION PARTIES (EXCEPTING DSP) MADE STRONG SHOW OF THEIR DISTASTE FOR AGREEMENT, BUT THEIR TACTICS WERE NOT AS EXTREME AS IN PAST ON ROK-RELATED MATTERS AND DIET EXPECTED TO RETURN TO NORMAL SOON. ALL-OUT GOJ EFFORT TO SECURE PASSAGE OF KOREA AGREEMENT SEEN IN MOFA-SHEPHERDED SUPRA-PARTISAN EXCURSION TO KYUSHU PREVIOUS WEEKEND IN WHICH UPPER HOUSE DELEGATION, INCLUDING JCP AND JSP REPS, FLEW OVER OCEAN AREA IN QUESTION AND OTHERWISE HAD CONVIVIAL TIME TOGETHER. (MOFA OFFICIAL QUIPPED THAT SUBMARINE TOUR WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE MEANINGFUL.) ALTHOUGH ACTUAL JOINT EXPLOITATION OF UNDERWATER RESOURCES CANNOT GET UNDERWAY UNTIL JAPAN'S MINING LAW IS REVISED BY DIET IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT, JAPANESE APPEAR TO BELIEVE MAIN BONE OF POTENTIAL CONTENTION WITH ROK HAS FINALLY BEEN REMOVED.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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